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Zoom Reflex Automatic S1

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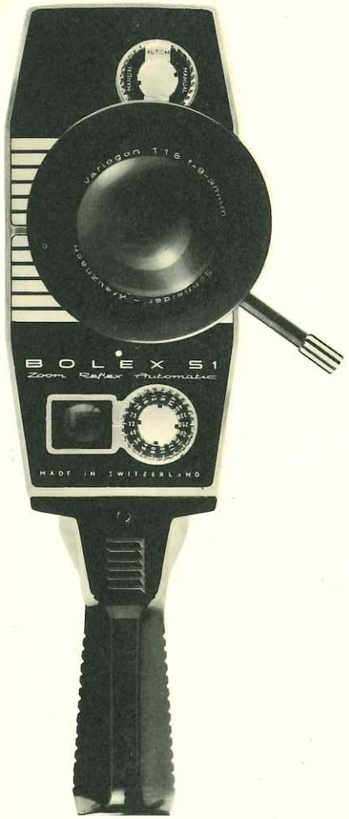
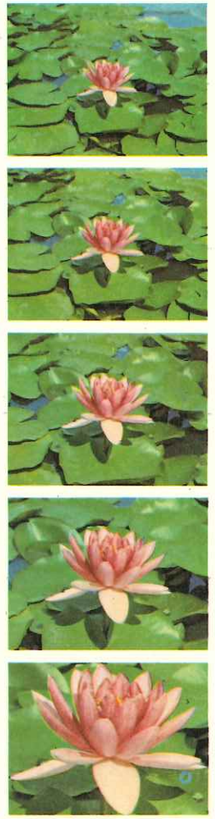
S1 film excellence easily obtained (by beginners or advanced fans)

Film family and friends at home and during vacation or while travelling. Film sports events and hobbies, nature, close-ups of flowers, animals, birds or insects. Capture life on film to recall it later at a moment's notice. In order to do so effectively and in order to derive pleasure, two things are needed: a camera with top quality optics to record and store images as clear, as sharp, and as bright as you remember them and a camera easy to handle yet versatile enough to allow your films to take on that professional quality.

The answer is of course the new Bolex Zoom Reflex Automatic S1, which offers both simplicity of operation and all of the versatile features a moviemaker might want. And more . . . only a Bolex offers the superb quality of Swiss precision craftmanship and engineering.

Bolex paillard





S1 Automation evaluates light conditions

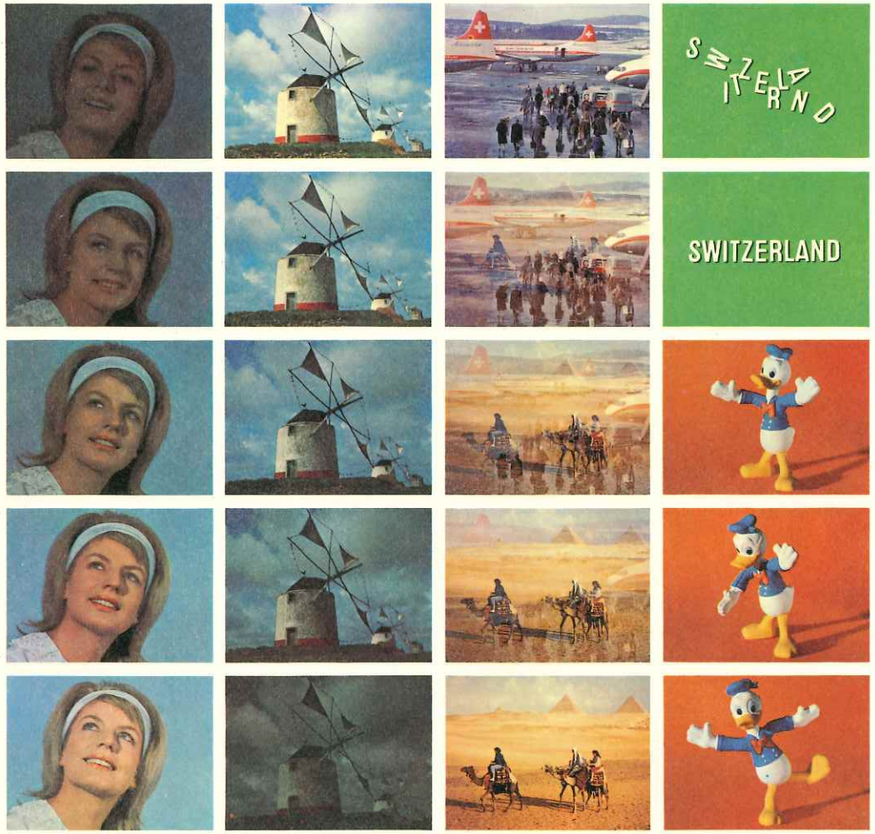
The Bolex S1 8 mm camera has fully automatic exposure control. No need to worry about choosing the right f/stop, the camera automatically comes up with the right answer and will do the work for you. Yet in the large and bright viewfinder the opening of the diaphragm is instantly recorded and one can match his own evaluation of exposure with the right one visibly indicated by the camera. The Bolex S1 will alert its operator if the available light is insufficient or excessive. The diaphragm can be operated manually if desired, and the extremely sensitive light measuring device is useable with the fastest films available (up to 400 ASA).

S1 viewing and zooming

Zoom from wide angle to telephoto or film at any focal length between 9 mm and 30 mm. Zooming is done smoothly with a convenient lever so that any focal length or zooming speed suited best to the scene about to be filmed can be chosen instantly. The choice of image and its all important framing can conveniently be done through the bright and large Bolex reflex viewfinder, particularly welcome to study details when attempting to include effective close-ups in your films.
The zoom lens is a Variogon Schneider f/1.8. Focusing is done on the large focusing ring adjustable to a minimum filming distance of 4 feet. Two close-up attachments are available:
– attachment I for filming from 4′ to 2¼′
– attachment II for filming from 2¼′ to 1¾′
Various filters (standard ASA series VII) for black and white and color films are also available.

The Vario-Curtar 0.75x converter

retains the zoom ratio but modifies the zooming range to start from the extreme wide angle of 6.75 mm to 22.5 mm telephoto position. At the same time the minimum taking distance is reduced to 2 feet.

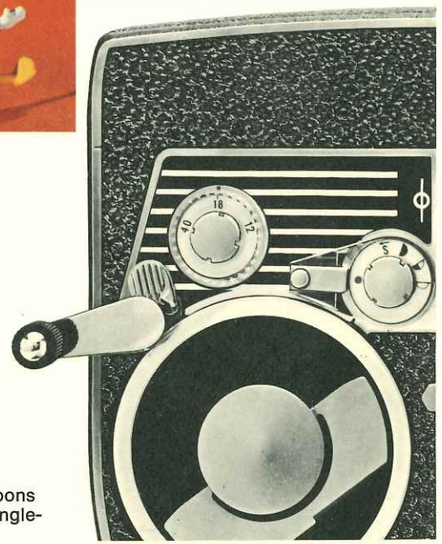


S1 versatility simple to operate

When all controls are left adjusted on the red markers, the Bolex S1 is the simplest to use high precision aim and shoot camera made today. Yet for the movie fan who strives for versatility and special effects the Bolex S1 incorporates all features allowing to shoot effectively just about every trick known to the pro.

The Bolex S1 has a Variable Shutter and Film Rewind. By slowly lifting the lever of the variable shutter control a scene will fade to total darkness and the camera will stop automatically. The same procedure in reverse at the beginning of a scene will produce a fade-in and turning the film back after a fade-out followed by fading-in the next scene will create a lap dissolve, an extremely pleasing effect which can be observed on TV shows or in professional motion pictures.

The Bolex S1 offers 3 filming speeds: 12 frames per second creating an effect of slightly accelerating the action, the normal 18 fps, and 40 fps for slow motion filming. All speeds can be coupled with the automatic exposure control system. The S1 also offers single-frame filming for trick sequences and animation. The S1 has an accurate film footage counter and its built-in trigger handle can be attached to a tripod or monopod.



Fade-in, for introducing a sequence

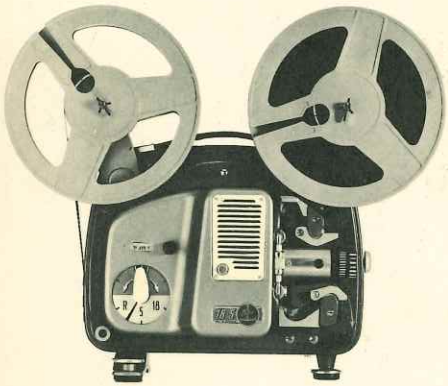
Fade-out, for ending a sequence

Lap dissolve, for making a smooth transition between two scenes

Animated cartoons by means of single-frame filming

Successful films

There is a great pleasure in seeing sharp, bright and correctly exposed—in a word, faithfully reproduced—pictures on the screen. You are easily able to obtain perfect results in all circumstances with the new Bolex Zoom Reflex Automatic S1 movie camera, a simple, practical and dependable camera which makes filming a pleasure.



To bring out the value of films taken with the S1 camera, project them with the famous Bolex 18–5, featuring automatic threading and slow motion projection. The automatic 18–5 comes with fast (f/1.3) 15 or 20 mm or 12.5 to 25 mm zoom projection lens.

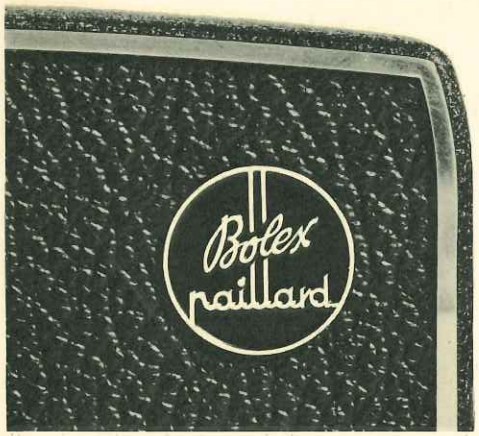
Smart Bolex carrying cases are available for your camera. They provide excellent protection for your camera and will hold several reels of film as well as small accessories.

International service

Bolex is backed by a world-wide organization offering service in more than 130 Bolex Centers throughout the world – staffed by factory trained experts. The Bolex dealer is always willing and able to give advice. Wherever you are you can be sure of specialized service.

Swiss precision

Before leaving the Paillard works Bolex cameras are very carefully tested. A trial film is taken with each camera: the results obtained must correspond to a whole series of rigorous standards. Thus you are assured that your Bolex Zoom Reflex Automatic S1 is as perfect as the hundreds of thousands of other cameras which have helped to make the Bolex trade-mark famous the world over.



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Paillard S. A. reserves the right to modify without previous notice the features of the mechanisms described in this prospectus.

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